

and complicated bid protests with a consistently high effectiveness rate and has been recognized by the government contracting community as a preeminent legal expert and trusted mentor. Mr. White is regularly sought out to speak and provide insights into the bid protest process throughout the government, academia, and industry. Throughout his tenure, Mr. White has managed the resolution of protests related to nearly every aspect of federal procurement spending. His exceptional professionalism, integrity, and dedication have been recognized by numerous awards throughout his GAO career, including GAO's Distinguished Service award in 2013 and the General Counsel's Award in March 2010 for outstanding leadership.

Under Mr. White's leadership, the GAO bid protest process has increased public confidence in the transparency, accountability, and functionality of the U.S. federal acquisition system. We thank him for his commitment and service to the Nation.

HONORING TEACHER
APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to commend and honor the extraordinary teachers in California's 44th Congressional District and across the United States.

Teacher Appreciation Week is an annual celebration of educators and the remarkable contributions they make in the lives of our students, parents, schools, and communities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Nation's teachers innovated the education system to create new ways to connect and care for their students during times of uncertainty during both remote and in-person learning.

And our teachers have done all of this while they care for themselves and their own families.

Despite these challenges, teachers across the country continue to show up day after day to inspire, empower, and motivate their students.

I'd like to highlight two of my district's extraordinary teachers: Audrey Casas and Youko Amemiya and share a bit more about some of their accomplishments.

Audrey Casas is a passionate, brilliant, and community-focused Teach for America teacher in Los Angeles. During the pandemic she noticed some of her students and their families struggled to secure basic necessities, which led her to start working in the community to gather resources. Her success led to a nonprofit that she now runs in addition to her job teaching. She is passionate about student-led practices and integrates many student-led projects into her teaching. Audrey's classroom is a safe space for kids and is often packed at lunchtime with her students including the ones she doesn't teach, to take part in "lunch club." Some days the kids just hangout while they eat their personal lunches, and other days kids and their families will bring food to share. She constantly celebrates her students and fellow staff, from teachers to custodians to administrators, and is a known light on her

campus, in her community, and in Lynwood. She was selected as Teacher of the Month by her students and her efforts were recognized by her school, district, and other regional news publications.

Youko Amemiya is an enthusiastic and accomplished teacher in the City of Carson, who is dedicated to her students, her school, and her community. She has instilled a vision of climate awareness at her school site with the development of her school's Roots and Shoots Club. At the beginning of the year, she wanted to teach her students about caring for the environment by planting 100 trees throughout the community in honor of the school's 100-year anniversary. Her students and community rallied behind her and helped to plant over 200 trees. Mrs. Amemiya is also committed to helping beautify her school. Through her tireless work reaching out to community partners and applying to grants, she was able to secure planters, benches, trees, soil, and various plants to make her school shine. She has been a positive influence on her classroom, her Roots and Shoots Club students, and the larger Carson community.

These are just two of the teachers in my district who make a profound impact on their students.

Teacher Appreciation Week is a time to celebrate the contributions of educators.

It's also a time to call for the policies and practices that will attract exceptional leaders to the teaching profession and support them throughout their career.

We must break down the barriers that prevent individuals from pursuing teaching careers and make concerted efforts to retain talented and effective teachers.

We need to create the conditions which allow teachers to grow, lead, and truly thrive in their profession.

And, in many instances—it means paying them higher salaries. We cannot prioritize our students, without prioritizing our teachers.

So, on this occasion of Teacher Appreciation Week, to the teachers in my district, I thank them for leading with ingenuity, resilience, and passion each and every day in their classrooms, and for their commitment to our students.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
TONY DIMARE

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible career of my good friend Tony Dimare. Going back to my days as Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Tony has been a pillar of leadership in the agricultural community of South Florida for over thirty years and I am honored to join the Dade County Farm Bureau in recognizing him and all he has done for the agriculture industry.

Tony Dimare began working for his family's business in 1983 and has worked in the produce industry for nearly forty years. His family's business, The Dimare Company, is a 94-year-old family produce company four generations deep with operations in four states—Florida, California, Pennsylvania, and Texas. He has taken his family's business to another

level and has created countless jobs in South Florida and across the country.

Along with bringing countless jobs to South Florida, Mr. Dimare serves on countless boards and does philanthropic work for South Florida. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, one of the organizations he serves on hosted daily food drives to help families experiencing food insecurity in the Miami-Dade County area. Mr. Dimare has always proven to be an integral part of the community.

I am always honored to recognize individuals who spend their lives bringing invaluable services to the South Florida and District 26 communities. Tony and I have worked together throughout the years, and I am certain he will continue to be a strong leader in the agricultural industry and in the community.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY SILICON VALLEY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the San Mateo County Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau on the 50th anniversary of its founding. It was 50 years ago that the Space Shuttle program was officially launched. It was fitting that the convention and visitors bureau began at that same time because the hope was to boost hotel occupancy to stratospheric levels, and to entice conventions to the fairgrounds in the City of San Mateo. It worked.

As the local economy transitioned away from agriculture and towards high technology, the fairgrounds became the site of a national semiconductor convention—SEMICON—and since that time has hosted hundreds of business and nonprofit events. Hotel rooms available in San Mateo County have exploded, from 81 hotels and 5,972 rooms in the Convention and Visitors Bureau when it was first formed to 140 hotels and 15,794 rooms today.

The economic impact of our visitor-serving industries is enormous. Pre-pandemic, the sector generated \$4.5 billion in visitor spending and well over \$500 million in local tax revenue. It employed 45,000 people. The bureau doesn't claim credit for all of these jobs or the money spent but given the reach of its promotional efforts it certainly has an impact. For decades, the bureau represented its membership at national shows dedicated to explaining to convention organizers the benefits of coming to San Mateo County. Many conventions came and tens of thousands of tourists annually are typically greeted in their hotels and event locations by further promotional advertisements for local attractions.

The San Mateo County Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau has been an indispensable source of information for me during the pandemic. Under the leadership of its outstanding President and CEO, John Hutar, the organization arranged for owners and managers to explain the steps they were taking to keep their doors open, or to avoid going into foreclosure, during the emergency. I was proud to be able to vote for the Paycheck Protection Program, EIDL loans and restaurant